

Assembly Bill No. 2433

Passed the Assembly August 31, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 31, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2433, Negrete McLeod. National Guard Family Resource Center Act.

Existing law establishes the Military Department comprised of the Office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, the California Cadet Corps, and the Naval Militia. The department has specified powers and duties relating to military and veterans.

This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the department the sum of \$99,000 for the 2006–07 fiscal year to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at specified battalion headquarters armory locations to support the creation of Family Resource Centers, as provided.

This bill would require the department to make a report to the Legislature regarding the program and make specified legislative findings and declarations in connection thereto.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the National Guard Family Resource Center Act.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The California National Guard serves essential public safety purposes and routinely supports state and local authorities in protecting the lives and property of the people of the state during periods of natural disaster and civil disturbance, and provides homeland security to the people of this state, as well as

serving the nation as a reserve component of the Army and the Air Force.

(b) The California National Guard is a federally recognized military organization that is routinely asked by the President to perform dangerous duties in armed conflicts, contingency operations, mobilizations, war, and other emergencies of national significance.

(c) The California National Guard has a proud tradition of federal military service where thousands of Californians have answered the call to duty and served proudly, and thousands more continue to serve their nation at home and abroad.

(d) The families of the members of the California National Guard endure extraordinary hardships when the members are called to duty by the President.

(e) The spouses and family members of deployed members of the California National Guard also serve their state and their nation, often without adequate recognition of their own sacrifices and contributions to the public good.

(f) The spouses and family members of the California National Guard could further contribute to the public good and accomplishing the mission of deployed members of the California National Guard by improved communications with their deployed spouses and family members.

SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Military Department, the sum of ninety-nine thousand dollars (\$99,000) for the 2006–07 fiscal year to support the creation of National Guard Family Resource Centers. These funds shall be provided to the Military Department to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at the battalion headquarters armory locations in Azusa, Burbank, Fresno, Inglewood, Modesto, San Bernardino, and Walnut Creek.

(b) The Legislature understands that the cost of each center shall be approximately thirty-one thousand two hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$31,279) for a total of two hundred eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty-three dollars (\$218,953). It is the intent of the Legislature that these funds shall be used in conjunction with privately raised funds donated through qualified 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations or 501(c)(3) Charitable Organizations to enable the completion of Family Resource Centers at the seven battalion headquarters listed in subdivision

(a). It is the intent of the Legislature that the Military Department, in concert with private organizations such as the National Guard Association of California, shall be actively involved in raising the additional funds from private donations.

(c) The funds provided to the Military Department under this act shall be used only for the construction costs of the reception and information area, Internet cafe, administrative support area, conference area, children's play area, families helping families closet, and general construction costs.

(d) The funds appropriated under this act shall be made available in equal parts to each of the seven armories listed in subdivision (a), and shall be made available for each armory only after sufficient funds or in-kind resources have been obtained from other sources to complete the construction of a Family Resource Center at that armory, as described in subdivision (c).

(e) The Military Department is encouraged to leverage existing resources, such as the Distance Learning Centers, National Guard Enhanced Classrooms, GUARDNET, NIPR, and other appropriate means to communicate with deployed National Guard members, as long as that use does not conflict with federal law or military regulations. In order to maximize scarce California resources, the Family Resource Centers should utilize federal networks to the maximum extent allowed by federal law and federal military regulations.

(f) No funds appropriated by this act shall be used for pay, allowances, or other related payroll costs for the Military Department, troop command, division, or brigade headquarters, or armory personnel.

(g) The Family Resource Centers shall be staffed by volunteers and existing Military Department or California National Guard personnel, to include armory repair and maintenance personnel and full-time unit staffing. Notwithstanding federal law and federal military regulations, the Adjutant General shall be the approving authority to allow volunteers access to armories for the purpose of operating Family Resource Centers.

(h) It is the intent of the Legislature to allow state employees to support the construction and operation of these Family Resource Centers consistent with their existing job requirements. Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the importance of these

centers in promoting the accomplishment of the Military Department mission and improving recruiting and retention in the California National Guard. Therefore, the Legislature recognizes that the Adjutant General is authorized under existing provisions to use funds otherwise made available to the department to support the creation and operation of Family Resource Centers in accordance with his or her strategic plan for the department.

(i) When the availability of Family Resource Centers is limited, priority of use shall go to family members of deployed soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard. However, on a space-available basis, these centers shall also be made available for use by family members of deployed federal reservists and active component military personnel.

(j) Within 365 days of the appropriation by this act, the Military Department shall provide a report to the Legislature indicating the status of the seven Family Resource Centers and the number of military families it has served. Included in the report shall be the amount of funds raised from private donors. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage private donations to the Military Department to make the creation and operation of future Family Resource Centers a public-private endeavor.

SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to better serve the needs of National Guard members and their families at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Approved _____, 2006

Governor